

**REPORT OF THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND
LEADERSHIP INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA FROM 26TH – 28TH APRIL, 2016.**

INTRODUCTION

The conference and Exhibition was organized by Society for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development (SEED) in total collaboration with University of Abuja – through the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) under the leadership of Professor Ernest Aiyedun, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship Development. The conference started on Tuesday 26th April, 2016 as scheduled and was planned to have ended on Saturday 30th April, 2016. However, the event was terminated on Thursday 28th April by the organizers after due consultations with other relevant stakeholders due to low participation as against expectation.

The Entrepreneurship Development and Leadership International Conference which started from Tuesday 26th – Thursday 28th April, 2016 was attended by organizations, Government Agencies, Institutions of Higher Learning from Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and Secondary education with exhibitors from private organization such like Service Management Consultancy Limited, Abuja the owners of E-moneynet and other private individuals who exhibited and displayed various articles and products from their industries and trade such like E-mobile money, wears, books, catering and kitchen utensils, fashion materials and other income generating items. Among the Government institution that attended are Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC), Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Association of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and Central Bank of Nigeria – represented by Development Finance Department (DFD). The represented institutions delivered their good will messages and pledged to support towards the Entrepreneurship Development of the Nation towards a sustainable economy.

The first day of the event started at about 11:45am as against the scheduled time of 9:00am. The event was declared open through the speech and written address by the Vice Chancellor – Professor Michael Adikwu, which was well delivered by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics. Further to the address of the Vice Chancellor, a written address from Society for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development (SEED) was delivered by Dr. Helen A. Andow of the Kaduna State University, Kaduna. A Key Note Address by Professor Kabiru Isa Dandago of Bayero University Kano and Honourable Commissioner, Kano State Commissioner for Finance, titled. **THE IMPACT OF HAUSA, IGBO AND YORUBA CULTURES ON ENTREPRENEURIAL ATTITUDE OF NIGERIANS** was delivered by Professor Olu Makinde. The addresses were all well received by the participants.

UNGLOBAI COMPACT PRINCIPLES

The President restated to participants as entrepreneurship champions the imperatives to keep to the principles of the United Nation, centred on Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption which principles we support through the UNGlobal Compact as participants. The 10 principles were retreated to members in the opening speech delivered in the conference as:

Human Rights

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: The effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Anti-Corruption

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

REPORT ON PARTICIPANTS

The event witnessed the presentation of 23 well researched and written articles on such issues as Entrepreneurship, Economics, Finance, Management and Social Innovation, by various researchers and scholars in Academics, and policy makers. Articles presented were duly deliberated upon and later accepted as contribution to entrepreneurship and economic development and knowledge. There were fourteen (14) students from various institution of Higher Learning that fully registered and participated under students category, among which three (3) of the students presented papers on the subject of the conference.

Below are the tables showing the classification and categories of participants during the conference and exhibition.

Table 1**SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS ACCORDING TO INSTITUTIONS**

Category	No. of Institution	Full Participants	Students Participants	Total Participants
Universities	12	28	14	42
Polytechnics	2	3	-	3
Colleges of Education	2	5		5
Secondary School	1	2		2
N G O	2	2		2
Government Agencies	3	6		6
Private individual/ organization	2	11		11
TOTAL	24	69	14	83

Table 2**Table showing classification of institutions and participants/ attendance**

Classification/ Name of Institution	No. of Full Participants	No. of Students Participants	Total
<u>SECONDARY SCHOOL</u>			
Anglican High School, Kano	2	-	2
<u>COLLEGE OF EDUCATION</u>			
FCE Kano	4	-	4
FCE (T) Zuba	1	-	1
<u>POLYTECHNICS</u>			
Kaduna State Polytechnic	1		1
Lagos State Polytechnic	2		2
<u>UNIVERSITIES</u>			
University of Abuja	6	-	6
Michael Okpara University Umudike, Abia State	7	1	8
ABU Zaria, Kaduna State	1	12	13
University of Maiduguri	3		3
Federal University of			

Technology Owerri- Imo State	2		2
Kaduna State University Kaduna	3		
UNN, Enugu State	1		
Abia State University	1		
Akwa Ibom State University	1		
Bayero University, Kano	1	1	2
Sule Lamido University Jigawa State	1		1
Federal University Otuoke, Bayelsa State	1		1
SUB TOTAL	38	14	52
OTHER INSTITUTIONAL/ ORGANIZATIONAL PARTICIPANTS			
<u>NGO</u>			
Women Development Association, Imo State	1		1
Christian Barakat Ministries Abuja	1		1
<u>GOVERNMENT AGENCIES</u>			
NUC	2		2
SMEDAN	2		2
CBN	2		2
<u>PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITORS</u>			
E-Money Net	3		3
Others Individual Exhibitors	9		9
TOTAL	<u>70</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>84</u>

FINANCE

The sum of one million, six hundred and thirty nine thousand, eight hundred and sixty-five naira (₦1,639,865) was expend by SEEED towards the organization and implementation of the event. This amount did not take into records the amount spent independently by the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development towards other logistics such like fueling/gas for generators, hall decorations, canopies hiring etc, for the event.

The sum of seven hundred and twenty nine thousand naira (₦729,000) was realized from participation and registration fees, while the sum of nine hundred and ten thousand, eight hundred and sixty five naira (₦910,865) were deficits recorded in the cause of the event. The details of the accounts are shown below.

IMPACT OF THE EVENT

The event had participation from our local institutions and created an enabling platform for information gathering and learning through use of technology and tools that surmounts ineffective entrepreneurship. It provided excellent platform and opportunity to broaden knowledge base for a successful entrepreneurial activities and learning.

CHALLENGES

As to every other event planning and implementation, invitations, letters and follow-up were given to several institutions in the educational and non-educational sectors seeking for their participation. However, we noticed that the anticipated participation as compared to the responses and assurances received from those who received invitations did not commensurably correspond with the actual participation. In the programme of events and Abstracts of articles – The number of Articles received before going to press were 36 but advertently on the event of the conference less than 45% of the published abstracts participated. That represents proportional number of the non participants. Among the reasons obtained for the low turn out during the event ranged from non-supportive attitude of Institutional Heads to participate in the conference, non approval of the 2016 Federal Government of Nigerian Financial Budgets where cost for conference participations are captured in for due process and accountability; among others.

Many scholars' especially among new scholars were faced with the challenges of writing and presenting acceptable researches on issues bordering social and management sciences. As a result the numbers of articles on social sciences issues in the major economics disciplines have not actually kept pace with human development and challenges.

APPRECIATION

We are most thankful, to the Vice Chancellor of University of Abuja – Professor Michael Adikwu for granting us the permission for the use of the University and her facilities during the Conference and Exhibition. We are also thankful to the Director of Centre for Entrepreneurship Development – Professor Ernest Aiyedun for the supportive role and mobilization of the members of his staff who all worked tirelessly during the event. We further appreciate all other members of the university who have contributed in other several ways which we may not mention here, due to lack of space. Their efforts are commendable, and were the reason for the success we have recorded so far.

PRAYERS

The year 2016 has witnessed the maiden edition of the Entrepreneurship Development and Leadership International Conference and Exhibition. The event has been earmarked as an annual event, which shall attract the participation of Institutions, Academics, Entrepreneurs, Global and National Leaders, Policy makers, philanthropists and so many others. As a result of the enormous tasks ahead, we are passionate and request for more collaborative and partnership from your institution in order to bring the 2017 edition of the event into better perspective to a larger society and Global nation. This shall be to the benefit of your university, our Nation Nigeria and the sub-Saharan African nation and the Global community.

Finally, we are most grateful and thankful for granting us the audience to serve.

Thank you.

Patrick C. Anucha

SEED

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Dr. Yusuf Musa Mohammed

Police Academy/ Bayero University Kano

For: Society for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development